

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by BERNSTEIN 4,641,579. Claims 4, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over BERNSTEIN in view of MACPHEE 5,713,282. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over BERNSTEIN in view of MACPHEE. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over BERNSTEIN in view of applicant's admitted prior art. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over BERNSTEIN in view of applicant's admitted prior art and further in view of MACPHEE.

The previously pending claims have been amended and new claims added.

Attention is directed to the specification beginning at line 24, of page 5 and with reference to Figure 3.

As can be seen from Figure 3, at normal room temperature the dampening solution viscosity is comparatively high and when the temperature exceeds about 18°C, the viscosity deteriorates (decreases). As a result of the deterioration, the amount of the dampening solution held on the surface of the printing plate becomes uneven, which will result in partial shortage of the dampening solution amount on the plate surface and hence cause contamination thereon.

Generally, a treated dampening solution with a predetermined viscosity is supplied to a printing machine. However, variation of an atmospheric temperature through a year influences on the temperature of the treated dampening solution. The operation of the printing machine may influence on the temperature of the treated dampening solution.

Thus, the invention solves the problem by keeping the treated dampening solution at the aimed viscosity value (for example, 1.3 poise), so as not to be the viscosity below the aimed viscosity value.

Specifically, when the treated dampening solution becomes below the aimed viscosity value, a viscosity increasing agent is added to the dampening solution to keep the viscosity at the aimed viscosity value, so as not to let the viscosity be below the aimed viscosity value.

None of the applied references teach the newly added recitations of the amended and new claims.

The references do not teach further adding a viscosity increasing agent to the dampening solution when the treated dampening solution is increased in temperature and thereby decreased in viscosity below the aimed value. The further viscosity increasing agent is added to increase the viscosity of the heated dampening solution to the aimed viscosity value at an operating temperature of an offset printing machine.

The references also do not teach the further new

recitations that the aimed viscosity value is at least 1.3 poise.

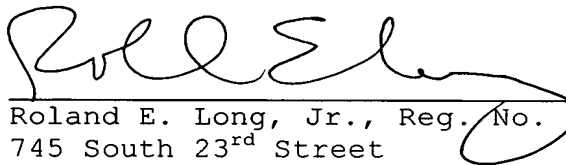
Therefore, the claims are believed both novel and non-obvious. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

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